

Michelle A Kenefick, LCSW, SEP
7 Beebe Road
East Haddam, CT 06423

March 11, 2019

**Testimony on Bill 7292: AAC Social Workers Title Protection
Labor and Public Employees Committee**

I am offering this testimony in support of Social Workers obtaining Title Protection. As you may be aware, many professions have title protection including doctors, nurses, massage therapists and many others however, Social Workers currently do not have this protection.

Social Workers are strenuously trained in both academic and field work which encompasses a range of skills. This expansive training offers Social Workers a unique ability to work across settings and with a diverse clientele which often includes communities as well as individual services. Social Workers are found in hospitals, government, social service organizations, schools, community organizations, mental health centers, skilled nursing facilities and many, many other access points.

Title Protection most critically offers two things: perhaps the most important is to ensure that clients who are seeking support and intervention from a Social Worker are receiving those services from a trained Social Worker. Often those with different and sometimes much less training refer to themselves as social workers when in fact they have not received the same level of training, education and supervision. This is at best misleading and at worst can perpetuate the individual or community instability. Title Protection also offers those who have worked hard to attain this level of professionalism and who agree to abide by a rigorous and long-established Code of Ethics the protection profession deserves.

I am grateful for the opportunity to submit this testimony and thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

Michelle A. Kenefick, LCSW, SEP

Michelle A. Kenefick, LCSW, SEP